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LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the communiqué issued today by the Office of the President of Togo on the development of the situation in Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roland Y. KPOTSRA

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Annex

Communiqué issued in Lomé on 7 January 1999 by the Office of the President of Togo

His Excellency Gnassingbé Eyadema, President of Togo and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), is following with concern the latest developments in the situation in Sierra Leone, which is characterized, inter alia, by the resurgence of fighting in the capital, the death of many civilians, major population movements and enormous material damage.

Given this situation, he makes an urgent appeal to the President of Sierra Leone and the leader of the rebel forces to order a halt to the fighting.

The current Chairman of ECOWAS wishes to recall that weapons have never succeeded in definitively settling conflicts, whatever their nature.

The current Chairman of ECOWAS takes the opportunity to stress that, as the forces of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group are forces of peace, their mission in Sierra Leone is to help the Sierra Leonean brothers put an end to this fratricidal war and find a political solution to the conflict between them.

Consequently, the President of Togo and current Chairman of ECOWAS urges the President of Sierra Leone and the head of the rebel forces to order their troops to lay down their arms in order to permit the opening of a political dialogue between the Sierra Leonean brothers with a view to a definitive settlement of the crisis.